Liberty

shall live

MEMORIAL
TO THE MARTYRED AND MONUMENT
TO VICTORY

LIDICE
shall live!

Memorial
to the Martyred and Monument
to Victory

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The fate of Lidice most clearly emphasises the character of German Nazi "Kultur" and of the German Nazi system in the period of the second world war. I say the German *system — adding to it the word* Nazi — *because* I cannot divorce the German nation as a whole *from that uncivilised, barbaric act of wholesale murder in Lidice in June 1942. I hold the German people* as a whole *responsible for Nazism and all its crimes, by which Nazism has become for ever infamous in human history. I consider it important politically that we draw the conclusions requisite to our State and that we act in accordance with them in the future, so long as the German people do not, after admitting their guilt, at least in part make amends for their sins against humanity and against human and Divine right and morality in the past fifteen years.*

It will not be long before we hear variously formulated and systematically developed apologies, excuses, and exculpations for all the unheard of inhumanities which the Germans committed during the war. When the world hears these excuses, let it not forget these facts: What most shocked the world about the crime of Lidice was, that an official German communique was issued immediately *after the murder of the guiltless people of the village, a murder previously planned, calmly deliberated and carried out with the deepest cynism; in this message the German government solemnly proclaimed its part in this infamy, from which it became plain that it was an act of reprisal against admittedly innocent people, that it was simply an expression of the murderous system of terror, which the German regime had developed into a publicly declared and defended State doctrine.* This was not something accidental, it was systematic, it was the legal conception of the German world, it was the new philosophy of the German nation and the German Herrenvolk, it was not concealed, it was not covered up, it was publicly proclaimed to the whole of the German people.

President Dr Edward Beneš
FROM HIS SPEECH ON THE HECATOMB OF LIDICE,
10TH JUNE, 1942.

The Germans, by the razing of Lidice, repeated in our country the wrongs which they had been committing for months in the Ukraine, White Russia, Poland, Yugoslavia, and in other countries. The news of each such massacre brought chilling terror, whether officially announced or spread by word of mouth.

And all alike proved that between the world of fascism and darkness and the world of democracy and freedom there is, and always will be, antagonism, that they cannot exist side by side, that between them there can be only struggle, a struggle of life and death, a struggle until the final victory.

Our people entered into this struggle, continued in it in spite of all the opposition and tyrany of those occupying their country, and in the struggle were victorious. The name of Lidice was an inseparable part of the battle. This village, which German madness erased from the face of the earth, lives in the hearts of millions of Czech people; its name awakened the brother Slovak people and helped to unite Czechs and Slovaks in one purpose: the regaining of lost freedom. The tragedy of Lidice aroused the conscience of all humanity and became the symbol of our own and of the world struggle. In Great Britain there were many demonstrations of British and Czech people; here was founded a committee of English miners who pledged themselves to raise a sum as substantial help toward the rebuilding of Lidice.

In the United States and Mexico many towns took the name of Lidice, others changed their previous names, such as Berlin, to that of Lidice. Lidice lived in the past, is living now, and its memory will remain just as dear to every Czech as that of Jan Hus and the twenty-one martyrs who died in 1621 by the sword of the Habsburg tyrants for their country and their faith.

Václav Nosek, Secretary of the Interior

FROM HIS SPEECH ON THE HECATOMB OF LIDICE,
10TH JUNE, 1942.

Introduction

The tragedy of Lidice, which took place in such terrible circumstances on 10th June, 1942, shook the whole of the Czech nation, at that time groaning under the yoke of cruel Nazi slavery. But it also shook the conscience of all cultured and democratic humanity and thus contributed to the final victory of good and justice over deep evil and brutal lawlessness, the victory of democracy and progress over Nazism and fascism. In this lies the great and sublime significance of Lidice, whose name has reached to the farthest corners of the Earth. If Lidice was in the past an effective partner in the struggle between good and evil, it must remain so now, and it must henceforward be a symbol of defense, which no nation of good will and democratic ideals must ever let go.

The crime of Lidice committed by the German occupying forces is something unknown in the history of enlightened humanity. All in that small village, built in the course of ages by whole generations, by hard work in their sun-lit fields and in the darkness of the mines, guiding the simple instruments of their trades or tending the great iron furnaces; the possessions and relics which these families had gathered around them, all was destroyed by the lightning, crafty, and raging blows of mad barbarians. Lidice was the home of honest and hard-working people, it was a typical Czech village; its inhabitants were, for the most part, of poor families, and many, while still little more than children, had to help their parents, or only a widowed mother, in supporting the whole family. They tended their small fields, and travelled long distances to work in the mines and iron foundries. Their dream was to own a home; they built their cottages in the evenings after work and on Sundays and holidays in order to give their dear ones a home, to leave something to their children.

Then the criminal hand of Nazism set fire to their homes, razed all their buildings to the ground, stole their possessions, led away their cattle, took their land, and tried to erase all traces of this innocent settlement. The men were ruthlessly murdered, the women taken to concentration camps, and the children dragged off to unknown places.

In Lidice in June 1942 was displayed the terrible bloodthirstiness and burning desire for revenge of the Nazi beasts. The German Government offices and administration here acted as murderers,

incendiaries, robbers, violators and destroyers of property, as coverers of the tracks of evil deeds, and as the raging annihilators of all traces of life in Lidice; even the cemetery was despoiled to its depths, scattered to the winds, desecrated and dishonoured. Not only did the Nazis violate the men, women, and children of Lidice, their homes and their property, but also all people of good will, for the bloodthirsty German madness menaced not only us, but all democratic nations.

All that may be said about the awful wholesale murder of 10th June, 1942 are mere words, inadequate, weak, incapable of describing the cruel reality. Nothing remains but in moments of deep concentration to think ourselves into those long hours when the men of Lidice were herded into the cellar of Horák's farm to be held there under the threatening muzzles of machine guns. Then they were led forth beneath a June sky which gazed down, as so many times before, upon the roofs of their homes, the daily-travelled paths, and the fields tilled by their honest sweat. Here we see so clearly that no amount of feeling and sympathy can make us realise their situation; in those moments the foreboding of imminent death must have become a certainty. With the first volley, they knew. Men as well as boys awaited death. They were healthy, robust, strong, they were sincere and guiltless, and yet they were to be shot defenceless; worse than criminals sentenced to death. None spoke to them of guilt, none passed sentence; it was simply decided that their lives should be taken.

When they were certain of their own fate, how could they expect these murderers to be merciful to their wives and children? Their hearts were filled with fear for their loved ones. In Lidice a mass murder was committed; but even mass murder may fall into various degrees of treachery and baseness. The murder which took place in Lidice was of such a kind that no one on this Earth can imagine anything worse. The men of Lidice in their last moments thought of their wives and children, theirs were thoughts of sorrowful and heart-rending pain. So they thought of them, and so they died.

From the tragic fate of the many dead, of the lost, and of the few remaining, emerges the great significance of Lidice which will live far into the future.

Lidice grows far beyond the boundaries of Bohemia and of the Czech nation, for it will always bring back to mind this tragedy, and in reminding all good and just people of the world, will stimulate and spur them to constant vigilance.

And so *Lidice shall live!*

Dr FRANTIŠEK KROPÁC

Lidice, 10th June, 1942

On 15th March 1939 the Nazis invaded the Czechoslovak Republic with the purpose of occupying it until their final victory over the world. The struggle which the country carried on against German fascism disappeared underground; the wave of resistance grew and spread, sabotage and unfriendly demonstrations becoming more and more common. Berlin saw that *Reich* protector von Neurath was not capable of holding down the angered people, and found it necessary to appoint in his place a man who shunned nothing, neither blood nor brutal violence, a man who would subdue the Czech people into a state of continuous terror. Germany had an abundance of such men, the worst of these being SS Obergruppenführer and general of police Reinhard Heydrich.

So von Neurath was generously given "sick leave" and on 27th September 1941, taking up the duties of his predecessor, Reinhard Heydrich entered into office. His first act was the issue of an *Order of the protector of Bohemia and Moravia proclaiming a state of civil emergency*, which, among other things, stated that in preserving public order and general security deviation from existing laws was permitted. Thus unlimited power was placed in Heydrich's hands, and he was not afraid to use it to its fullest extent. The next day, 28th September, he proclaimed a state of emergency in all the larger cities in Bohemia and Moravia, and ordered the arrest of General Eliáš, Prime Minister of the protectorate government, who was sentenced to death on 1st October of the same year. The wave of terror grew. The daily newspapers carried long columns of the names of the executed. By official German reports, in the first two months under the *protection* of Heydrich, 429 individuals were executed, that number not including those who were tortured to death in the Gestapo prisons. In Bohemia Heydrich quickly became the most hated man. The whole Czech nation hated him; the whole nation longed for revenge.

And the opportunity for revenge came. In the morning of 21st May 1942 Heydrich was driving to Prague from the country mansion in Panenské Břežany. He never reached his destination. In a suburb of Prague an armed attack ended his destructive activities. Heydrich was mortally wounded and died a few days later.

That which followed the assassination surpassed any previous

conceptions of German fury. Searches, arrests, executions, had no end. According to official German reports, 695 men, women and children were killed in the first month. Half a million men of the police, SS, SA, Gestapo and other Nazi organizations took part in carrying out this work. But the worst was yet to come.

On the evening of 10th June, 1942 were heard over the radio these biting words of a Nazi announcer:

From official sources comes the following communique:

In the search for the assassins of SS Obergruppenführer Heydrich definite clues were found showing that the inhabitants of the village of Lidice near Kladno had given support and assistance to the culprits. This information was verified with no help from the inhabitants. Their attitude towards the assassination was emphasised by further acts unfriendly to the Reich, such as: the finding of forbidden printed matter, stores of arms and ammunition, illegal radio sets, an exceptionally large quantity of rationed goods, and the uncovering of circumstances showing that several individuals were abroad in active service against the Reich. Because the inhabitants of this village, by their support and assistance to the assassins of SS Obergruppenführer Heydrich, broke the law so recklessly, the men have been shot, the women deported to concentration camps, and the children taken where they may have suitable upbringing. The buildings of the village have been razed to the ground, and its name erased.

Here was mass murder; a crime which the German administration shamelessly claimed as its own before the whole world; an atrocity which was a blow in the face to the world and to all its conceptions of right, justice and civilisation. The German devil appeared in his true light, and proclaimed with a voice that shook the world: we are bandits, plunderers, murderers of children; we have power, and we are not afraid to use it in this way against any who antagonise us.

The world was stunned. The same night broadcast stations all over the world passed on the awful news of the annihilation of Lidice. None could conceive of a worse accusation against Nazism than such a communique. The name of Lidice flew through the world; and the Czechoslovak nation showed that its people were fighting with all their strength against these tyrants, that they did not shrink from sacrifice, and that they stood firmly behind their exiled government, never to become reconciled with the so called *protectorate.*

The Germans wanted to erase the name of Lidice from the map forever, they desired that every memory of its heroic inhabitants be removed from the mind of mankind. They wanted to instil fear into

the Czech people, they wanted to bring them to their knees, but for this very reason the nation was all the more determined to carry on the battle against the German maniacs. The world answered too, answered by naming cities and towns after Lidice, and by setting up committees for the reconstruction of the ruined village after the defeat of Nazi Germany. For instance, in England and Scotland several hundred places, such as streets, parks, and town squares were named Lidice. In England a committee by the name of *Lidice Shall Live* was formed, which collected a substantial sum for the rebuilding of Lidice. In the Americas too several cities have been called Lidice-Park Gardens near Chicago, Illinois, Vila Parada in Brazil, San Geronimo in Mexico, in Canada a whole county in the province of Quebec.

The name of Lidice became a symbol in the struggle of all democratic nations against fascist Germany. This tragedy opened the eyes of all who doubted German criminality.

How the tragedy of Lidice came about was investigated after the ending of the war by detailed inquiries conducted by the Czechoslovak Government. From official documents and confessions of imprisoned Gestapo members we may now form the complete picture.

On 9th June at the headquarters of the Kladno Gestapo an order for a state of readiness was issued. In the evening units of the German police arrived; lorries were loaded with drums of petrol, and just before midnight the order was given to set out for Lidice. The whole village had been surrounded with SS men and German police. After their arrival the leaders of this expedition met on the Lidice square and there *SS Hauptsturmführer* Harald Wiesman, chief of the Kladno Gestapo, announced in a loud voice that the *Führer* had ordered the village of Lidice to be razed to the ground, men over sixteen years of age to be shot, women deported to concentration camps, and the children taken where they might have suitable upbringing.

Then began the execution of this order. First the mayor of Lidice was summoned so that he might deliver to the members of the Gestapo all cash in the public treasury, all deposit books, papers, and other valuables. A group of police went from house to house and awakened the sleeping families. All were told to take with them all their money, jewelry, and deposit books, which were later taken away from them in the square.

When the Germans had driven the terrified families from their homes, they separated them, the women and children were taken to the school building, the men to the Horák farmhouse. There the Gestapo

brought the file of police registration cards and checked whether all men of the village were present. They found that eleven were missing, to be exact, eleven workers at the nearby factories who were on the night shift. All in all, there were 173 men of Lidice on the Horák farm.

In the meantime, the removal of farm implements, cattle, and supplies had begun. During the evacuation other members of the German police prepared for the second step in the annihilation of the village: the burning. SS men were carrying petrol tins which they had brought from Kladno into individual homes, and placing them in such a position that later the flames would spread as quickly as possible.

On the Horák farm mattresses were piled against the walls of the stable. The firing squad was prepared, and behind stood several reserve men. Not even the Germans themselves were sure that all these apparently indifferent criminals would be able to see the horrible mass execution through. After a few last-minute instructions, the first ten men were led out.

They were placed in front of the barn wall lined with mattresses before the firing squad. They were not tried, no one told them of their fate; not until now did they see what was awaiting them. The village was in flames around them, from their homes rose billows of smoke. The firing squad was getting ready, three of its members to aim at every man. The flash of a sword, the report of rifles, and ten men fell to the ground. A German officer passed by each one, and, for certainty's sake, sent yet another bullet into their temples.

Ten more were brought and were obliged to stand in front of their dead comrades. The firing squad moved back a few paces, the officer barked an order, rifles cracked, and ten more men lay motionless on the ground.

With the regularity of machines this continued. Ten, twenty, thirty, more, and still more men fell never to rise again. After fifty had thus been killed, the firing squad was given a stand-easy; its members stood about nonchalantly, not minding the fifty men and boys lying before them. Three men were relieved, and the execution continued. When all was done, seventeen rows of corpses lay at the feet of the Germans. The remaining eleven who were not present because of employment were later executed in Prague, in addition to eight members of the family of the Horáks and Stříbrnýs, who, at that time, were held by the Gestapo. In all 192 men fell, 192 heroes who gave their lives for their country.

Before the execution of the men, the women and children, gathered

in the Lidice school, were transported to the high school building in Kladno. There, with German thoroughness, the women and children were registered separately. This lasted two days, and then the children were taken away from their mothers. Cries of grief filled the building. The women, whose husbands had been killed only two days before, lost even their children, and, for the most part, never saw them again.

Towards evening, two large buses arrived in which 184 women, including 3 women pregnant, under heavily armed guard, were taken to the Kladno railway station, whence they were conveyed in goods trucks to the concentration camp in Rawensbrük. Left behind were only four further pregnant women and seven mothers with children under one year of age. Their fate had not as yet been determined. Later however they too were sent to Rawensbrük, including the four women after childbirth.

Since 3rd June 1942, the Kladno Gestapo had held eight Lidice women of the Horák and Stříbrný families; these, with their husbands and brothers, were later executed in Prague. In the concentration camp seven women died in the gas chambers, forty-three others died of torture and maltreatment.

Not only the women, but also ninety-one children were deported. Escorted by SS men and women, they were taken in buses to Libochovice and from there by rail to Lodž in Poland. Here they underwent racial tests imposed by the head of the *Rasse und Siedlungsamt* of Lodž, Walter Robert Dongus, who divided them into two groups. Into the first group were put nine children showing the characteristics of the Northern type, and they were to be Germanized; into the other group were put the remaining eighty-two.

The children chosen for Germanization were placed in a home in Puscykówko. From here they were taken with new names and false papers into German families as children of German origin. Of these, eight have been traced, one has not yet been found.

The eighty-one children of the second group were taken on 3rd July 1942 to unknown destinations. In addition, a six-year-old little girl, Dagmar Veselá, was deported on 25th July with the children of the destroyed town of Ležáky.

Here end all traces of the eighty-two children of Lidice. To the horror of the Lidice tragedy is added this further, perhaps the most painful, chapter, for here the Nazis committed a criminal offence against the most innocent in Lidice, for whom the greatest anxiety must be felt. Nazi bestiality struck even at the youngest, babes-in-

arms not yet a year old, even children not yet born; the seven of less than one year were taken from their mothers and placed in a Prague institution. Fortunately, six of those lived to see the liberation of the republic and will find a new home in Lidice.

At the time of tragedy, the Nazis did not even forget the seven children yet to be born. Their mothers were sent to a hospital in Prague, where the babies, after three weeks, were taken away from them, and under false names given to German families, while their mothers were transported to the concentration camp. Of these six children fife died, one were later found. A little boy was born to one of the Lidice women in Rawensbrük, but was immediately after his birth put to death by the SS.

And so the final balance gives us these terrible facts: 192 men and seven women shot, 196 women taken to concentration camp, of whom 43 died from torture and maltreatment, seven by gas; 105 children disappeared, of whom only seventeen have been found and returned up to date. The village was burned, the Germans working for some time afterwards to erase all marks of habitation from its site.

The Germans were successful in removing all traces of Lidice, but by that very act they built in the hearts of the peoples of all free nations a new Lidice, an immortal Lidice, a Lidice which shall live!

M. PAPÍRNÍK

...and the women ware taken to a concentration camp

In Lidice we all lived the lives of country people. Our ancestors lived thus in our village as far back as 1352. Gradually Lidice grew. In the eighteenth century, with the development of industry and the finding of coal in nearby Kladno, Lidice came into its own. In 1942 it had 493 inhabitants; of those 192 were men, 203 women, and 98 children. The men were mostly miners and smelters employed in Kladno, working on their little piece of land in their spare time to make both ends of the family budget meet. All were good Czechs, loving their country and justly proud of it. That is why the German occupation did not catch Lidice unprepared; the strength and courage of its inhabitants were built upon sincere love of country. The 15th March 1939 was a hard day for all of us to bear, but we believed in our great men beyond our frontiers, and in the certain victory of democracy. All of us worked and helped each other, in order that we might once again see our country free. Into our peaceful lives the day of 10th June, 1942 came like a whirling tornado; in blood-red characters this date will be engraved upon our memories, its deep scar always remaining.

On 9th June 1942, parties of German police, SS, and of the army, surrounded our village. Six SS men, armed to the teeth, entered each home, giving us ten minutes to collect all money and valuables and to leave the house. An SS man told us in broken Czech that we were going into the school building for questioning which was to last two days. Sleepy children cried and asked questions which the parents themselves wanted answered. We left our homes in anxiety, but our hearts were filled with the hope that all would be explained and we should safely return. With this in mind we uttered no word of parting, only our eyes were questioning and doubtful when we were separated from the men, who were collected at the Horák farm, whilst we went to the school.

We arrived there with our dearest possessions - the children. All the valuables which we had been bidden to take with us the Germans were grabbing from our hands, demanding even earrings and wedding rings. With muddy boots they were pressing money into suitcases - our hardearned money, gained by the sweat of our brow in mines, in foundries, and in the fields.

About five o'clock in the morning they ordered us into covered lorries. The children held fast to their mothers'hands, and the grandmothers lamented helplessly. We shall never forget the last look at our village. On the steps of the school building lay scattered baby covers, rattles, and overturned prams, at which the Germans kicked furiously as the mothers were lifting out their children. Whining dogs ran terrified about the streets and behind the lorries. Before the lorries began to move we saw our village for the last time, the men standing in the garden of the Horák farm, the Germans throwing out of the windows of our homes all that we had left behind, and then a cloud of dust separated us from all of it forever. We all wept, and one of us sorrowfully predicted that we should never return.

The run lasted twenty minutes; we stopped before a Kladno high school building. We were herded into the gymnasium, in which the bare floor was covered only by a few bales of straw, which was to serve as bedding for 195 women and 98 children. On Friday, three days later, days which were filled with the crying of children and the desperate hopelessness of their mothers, at about five-thirty in the afternoon, fifty SS men came into the gymnasium. One of them announced that we were to go to a work camp, and, in answer to our questions concerning the men, told us that they were to be sent there also. The children would follow us later, when more comfortable means of travel had been provided for them. Deceived by their first lie, we did not believe them, and were prepared to defend our children with our bare hands. There were fifty strongly armed SS men against us, however, against helpless, terrified, weak women. Slowly they called out the name of each child, wrenched it out of its mother's arms. The child's cries tore at every nerve in her body - don't leave me, mummy, don't let them take me away, don't cry, I'll come back - she did not hear, for she had given her most precious possession, and her body on the yellow straw was shaken by uncontrollable sobs. When they had reached the end of the list, not one of us had the strength to raise herself to a threat. Numb with pain, we did not know how we reached the courtyard of the school and filed into the lorries, which took us to a train whose destination was Rawensbrük. Only 11 women with children under one year of age remained in Kladno, but even these followed us later. Women in the last months of pregnancy were sent to Prague, where their children were taken away shortly after childbirth, and they themselves sent to the concentration camp.

The run lasted two days, continually under the guard of the SS. The third day we once again realized that we had been deceived, for this was a concentration camp, and not a work camp. We realized immediately that all we had known about such camps were mere fragments of the brutal truth we now saw before us. Dogs, especially trained to attack prisoners, awaited us, and even worse women in SS uniforms. In the courtyard of the camp, with yelling and kicking, they put us into rows of fives, then called out our individual names. Then all of us, old as well as young, were stripped and sent under showers. We feared that next we would be sent into gas chambers. An SS doctor was walking about examining us and determining our state of health. With a few exceptions, our condition was good. Finally they turned on us showers of ice-cold water, then dressed us in light clothes, and, shoeless, ordered us again into rows of five. Our first dinner consisted of two potatoes and vegetable water; we could not eat even though we were hungry. Suddenly we heard the camp siren which meant lining up into the original rows. Women poured out of all the buildings no, those were not women, but only shadows wearing the women's prison garb. Only the desperate eyes of wives and mothers told of their womanhood. Our bare feet were cold as we stood in straight rows. An hour we stood like this, when the absolute silence took on an atmosphere of terror, for among the prisoners was walking the *Lagercommandant*. Slowly and haughtily he passed among us. God help the one on whose face he found rebellion or contempt. We were stunned when he ordered barrels of cold water to be poured on the sick or those unable to stand. Then SS women selected newcomers for work. Most were picked in this human market for the sewing of SS uniforms, on the night shift.

For the whole of four months we did not see a ray of sunshine, for in the mornings we fell into our beds wearied by the incessant work; this trying night work lasted four months, four months bent over the hateful SS uniforms, our hearts filled with memories of families, husbands, children. The first night after the dreadful twelve-hour work shift we suddenly heard the mad yelling of an SS man. One of our older women had held a piece of newspaper in her hand. Since even the reading of German newspapers was forbidden, the Nazi began to kick her mercilessly. She did not realize what had happened. Then we heard the hollow sound of an iron heel against the back of a woman whom we knew to be the mother of three children. She fainted, and then was carried out into the street for the cold water treatment.

Those were long nights of hopelessness, and then strong belief that we should see our loved ones again. In the morning we stood for perhaps several hours at attention in our lines, and then, so tired that the brain was not even capable of memories, we lay down to dreamless sleep, only to rise to the same again in the evening. And so days passed, and hopelessness and then again determination and hope took turns in swelling our hearts. Later we had the twelve-hour work changed so that one week we worked during the day, the next at night. This was caused by the great mortality of women who could not stand the endless night and working in the hours of darkness, which the Germans so needed.

After our arrival in the concentration camp we were allowed to send home our address. Then each month we were permitted to write one letter in the German language, and to receive one. Those were terrible days of despair when we had letters from our relatives in which there was no mention of that which we so much wanted to know. After about half a year the news came that our homes had been completely destroyed. The loss of our possessions did not hurt so much in the surroundings of the camp where each one wanted only to save her life, but the thoughts of our dear ones gnawed at our hearts with greater pain. Czech women who arrived at the concentration camp after us, in answer to our endless questions told us the truth, that the men of Lidiceh ad been shot, and the children sent away for suitable upbringing in German families. Three Lidice women went mad. Terror gripped the rest of us, for mad women were fated to die of thirst and starvation in a dark chamber. Because of all this we soothed each other, gave each other strength and hope, saying that all this was not true. We knew the Germans, how they were addicted to lies, and we firmly believed that we would see our families again, that the children would be found, and that the men were in a concentration camp like we were, perhaps in Rawensbrük itself. Hope is the last thing to die in a human being; only hope gave us the strength to last out, for the thought of the meeting with our loved ones again and again encouraged us and drove away complete desperation.

In the winter of 1943 there were in the camp so called *selections* when individual divisions stood lined up in the courtyard. Each woman had to pass by a doctor, who, by a movement of his hand, indicated the women who were either old or ill. Each limping, pale, or ageing woman had to fall out of line. Painfully we saw that forty Czech women had been selected, fifteen ot them Lidice mothers.

The whole camp wept for them, for among the group were women of all nations. We felt that we should never see them again, for they were transported half naked in the bitter cold in trucks to Osvětim in Poland, as we later found out. Their desperate cries we hear even now - remember us to our husbands and children in case we don't return. And most of them never returned, they froze or died of starvation on the way.

In the year 1944 the camp was overflowing with prisoners. We slept by twos in the meagre cots. Fleas and bed-bugs multiplied so that it was impossible to sleep in the night no matter how tired one was. The fleas carried many diseases, especially typhus, which spread so rapidly that the camp surroundings and the SS men employed there were endangered. The Germans solved the problem by selecting the infected and sending them to the gas chambers. The corpses were carried out every day, then piled on huge lorries and taken to the crematorium. Its flames glared before our eyes day and night. We lived from day to day without feeling, and memories brought only sorrow. We did not appear human, we had been dulled by the hard and tiring work and the severe blows; many times death seemed so near; perhaps better than life. In the evenings with horror we watched the transports which, accompanied by the yelling of SS men, left for the neighbouring camp, whence they were sent into gas chambers. Each day we counted how many orphans would be left, how many women from Lidice would be taken away. Each one of us waited fearfully until her turn should come. And in the worst days when our hopelessness and desperation reached its peak, we began to notice that the proud and arrogant German *Reich* was shaking to its very foundations. All of a sudden the news was spread that the camp would be evacuated. Transports left daily, and the allied armies came closer and closer in their speedy and victorious advance . . .

One night we were suddenly awakened. A drunk SS man was running wildly about our building, throwing us out of our bunks. We did not want to leave when we heard firing at such a short distance, which, for us, meant freedom. We were driven out of our quarters and with the shouting of SS men and the barking of dogs we left the hated camp. We had to march twenty-five miles on an empty stomach; we were mercilessly forced ahead. On the way we experienced air raids, passed by the cold bodies of people we had known; *and now we wanted so much to live, for we knew that freedom, complete freedom, was so near.* After several days of this death march,

when SS men shot everyone who could go no further, we once again became people, once again free human beings. In Grivice, about eighteen kilometres from Schwerin, in Germany, we were liberated on 2nd May 1945 by the Red Army.

Several weeks later lorries were sent for us by the Czech miners of Kladno. After three years and with thinning ranks we were returning home. There were 143 of us when we reached the frontiers of our beloved land. How we had longed for this beautiful country. Heart-warming pictures of the meeting with our loved ones filled us. On the boundaries of our dear mother country we were told that we had returned alone, and that no one was awaiting us, that our husbands, sons, fathers and brothers slept eternally in Lidice, where they were shot on 10th June 1942, and that our children had been robbed from us by the Germans.

We had returned home, once more to become free people, but we returned to Lidice to a sadly silent plain over which stands a cross with a wreath of thorns. We returned alone, but the whole nation welcomed us with open arms, the whole world convinces us that Lidice has become for it a symbol of the struggle against fascism.

Just as in the concentration camp we united in work for the people and the nation, so do we now. We, the remaining women of Lidice, have formed a national committee, and we believe that *The Association for the Restoration of Lidice*, which has been entrusted by the Government with the rebuilding of the village, will found for us a new Lidice, so that the resolution of the English miners *Lidice Shall Live*, which found an echo in America and in the whole world, will become a fact. We are searching for our children, of whom eighty-two have not returned; we know that our men will never come back to us. We want to be near their grave though, in the new Lidice, which will be an eternal memorial to their sacrifice and to the cruel fate of our lost children.

H. LEFLEROVÁ

The New Lidice

Not one of the group of German Nazis who made decisions concerning the lives of the people in the occupied countries ever dreamed what effect would follow the act by which they hoped to terrorize the world. The world was shaken when in cold blood and with their cruel arrogance, they announced that the village of Lidice near Kladno had been razed to the ground and its name erased from all maps and documents. Here the Germans clearly showed how they pictured the new law which they hoped to uphold in Europe. In that fateful moment when they murdered in mass and wanted to force the Czech nation to its knees, in that moment the people united still more strongly in their faith in those who were working abroad for freedom and happiness for mankind.

In the United States a wave of bitterness arose after the destruction of Lidice, and brought exactly the opposite result to that which the Germans expected. No one was frightened by the Germans' brutal power, but every individual realized that each must *fight* in order that the tragedy of Lidice might not be repeated in various forms all over the world. In this way the name of an unknown mining village became the war cry of the fighting men. Lidice became the symbol of the allies, a symbol of the democratic freedom of nations.

As early as on 12th July 1942, a month after the annihilation of Lidice, the inhabitants of Stern Park Gardens in Illinois held a great manifestation. On that day the name of the town was ceremoniously changed to Lidice, and a memorial was unveiled with the inscription *Lidice in Czechoslovakia was destroyed by a barbarian hand, but it will live in the hearts of all lovers of freedom. This memorial was built by the free American people of Lidice, Illinois.*

A month later a town in Mexico, situated near the capital Mexico City, was renamed Lidice upon the suggestion of its president, Manuel Avil Camach. To these are added further cities, towns, and villages in Havana, China and even in South Africa New Berlin changed its name to Lidice.

In the United States *The Lidice Memorial Committee* was set up, which is to build a massive monument in Lidice. In Great Britain an association *Lidice Shall Live* was founded in Staffordshire, under the impulse of English miners.

Upon the suggestion of the *Labour Party* candidate Dr. B. Stross it was unanimously decided at a conference of the *Miners' Federation*

in *Blackpool* that miners all over the world be called upon to help in the rebuilding of Lidice. In this the way association *Lidice Shall Live* arose and it has pledged itself to raise a substantial sum toward the rebuilding of Lidice in Czechoslovakia which was so brutally destroyed by the Germans. In the programme of *Lidice Shall Live* is also included a plan for the forming of an international institute for research on the safety of mines. When this plan was adopted, Dr. Stross remarked that the German destruction of Lidice meant the savage throwing away of human lives; but that the resurrection of Lidice would mean protecting and saving the lives of miners all over the world.

No small echo was awoken by the Lidice tragedy in Russia, which more than any other nation felt the fury of Nazism. The Russian press hailed a Lidice which had not died, a Lidice which is a symbol of the struggle for freedom of all nations, a Lidice which will rise again with new life in free Czech lands. And the soldiers of the Red Army were the first to set up upon the plain where old Lidice stood, the plain beneath which lie the bodies of many men, a memorial to those who sacrificed so much in that very spot.

While still abroad, the Czechoslovak Government requested of Columbia University a plan for the new Lidice. In this plan the site of old Lidice will be devoted to a national park, and the new village constructed a short distance away. After return to the Czechoslovak Republic the Government solemnly announced *that* Lidice should be rebuilt. On 10th June 1945 the Secretary of the Interior, Václav Nosek, decreed that Lidice had been recognized as existing and standing on its original site and under its original Czech name as before its annihilation.

How will the new Lidice appear?

From the very beginning it was decided that the original site of Lidice should not be built over, and that the village itself should stand at some distance. After asking the advice of individual Czech citizens, the Government made a plan of the old Lidice so that each house might be marked, the paths and *streets* named as before, and this site remain a monument. By the outline of each house will lie a plaque on which will be engraved the name of the family which lived there and the names of those who died during the annihilation of the village. The ground plan of the original church will be carefully marked, and a stone altar will stand in the place of the destroyed one, where outdoor services will be held. The cemetery, from which all corpses were removed and their rings and gold-filled teeth stolen,

the bones then scattered to the winds, will be sacredly renewed, and the new cemetery built on a neighbouring piece of land. Above all this will stand the mighty monument given by the *American Lidice Memorial Committee*, which can easily be seen for many miles. This area will be kept free of traffic. Connected with the old Lidice a museum will be built in which will be gathered and displayed relics of Lidice itself and of the brutal reign of the German barbarians.

Between the old village and the new there will be a meeting place for special occasions with parking accommodation. The new village will lie west of the old one and will be situated on a slope towards the south. It will consist of 170 family houses and the necessary public buildings. In the centre of the village will stand a Catholic church with a parish house. In the square beside the church will be a building housing the post office and first-aid station. Next will come a building which will be the centre of cultural life. Next to the recreation halls, the cinema, theatre, and dancing halls, there will be built a public library with reading rooms. In this building will also be a restaurant with well-equipped rooms for overnight visitors. The stores will be in a building well equipped with refrigerators and storage space for the keeping of food as well as other products.

Attention has been given to the schooling of the smallest Lidice citizens. Beside the primary school will stand a kindergarten with an advisory clinic for mothers and their children. The schools will be in the so called *recreational* section, near a brook. In this section will be playgrounds and a swimming pool for children as well as adults, for the schools as well as for physical education organizations. In addition a gymnasium with modern equipment will be placed nearby.

Here also will be built the headquarters of the *International Mine Safety Federation* to which special attention has been devoted for its technical as well as its organizational possibilities. The task of carrying out this plan will take longer than all else for it is completely new and unique. A committee has been formed of representatives of the *Association for the Restoration of Lidice* together with experts from the mining and medical fields. This committee has found a parallel in Great Britain, and it is the task of the leaders of these groups to form such organizations throughout the world wherever interest has been shown. In connection with the international federation a mining school which has been temporarily established in Kladno will be founded, the only one of its type in this country.

The agricultural side will be developed according to the most

recent ideas. Those who want to work on their land individually will be granted a plot equal in size to the one they had before. Those remaining will form a company which will tend the land cooperatively, individuals claiming no particular areas. As a whole, Lidice will be a pattern for building in all country towns and villages. It will have its own water system and electricity, and arrangements for the bringing of gas from Kladno.

In this way Lidice will rise again - to bring to mind German hatefulness and cruelty, in order that it may serve as a warning to future generations of the danger in the rising of a nation which did not shrink from the most cruel means of satisfying its desires for conquest.

F. KNOR

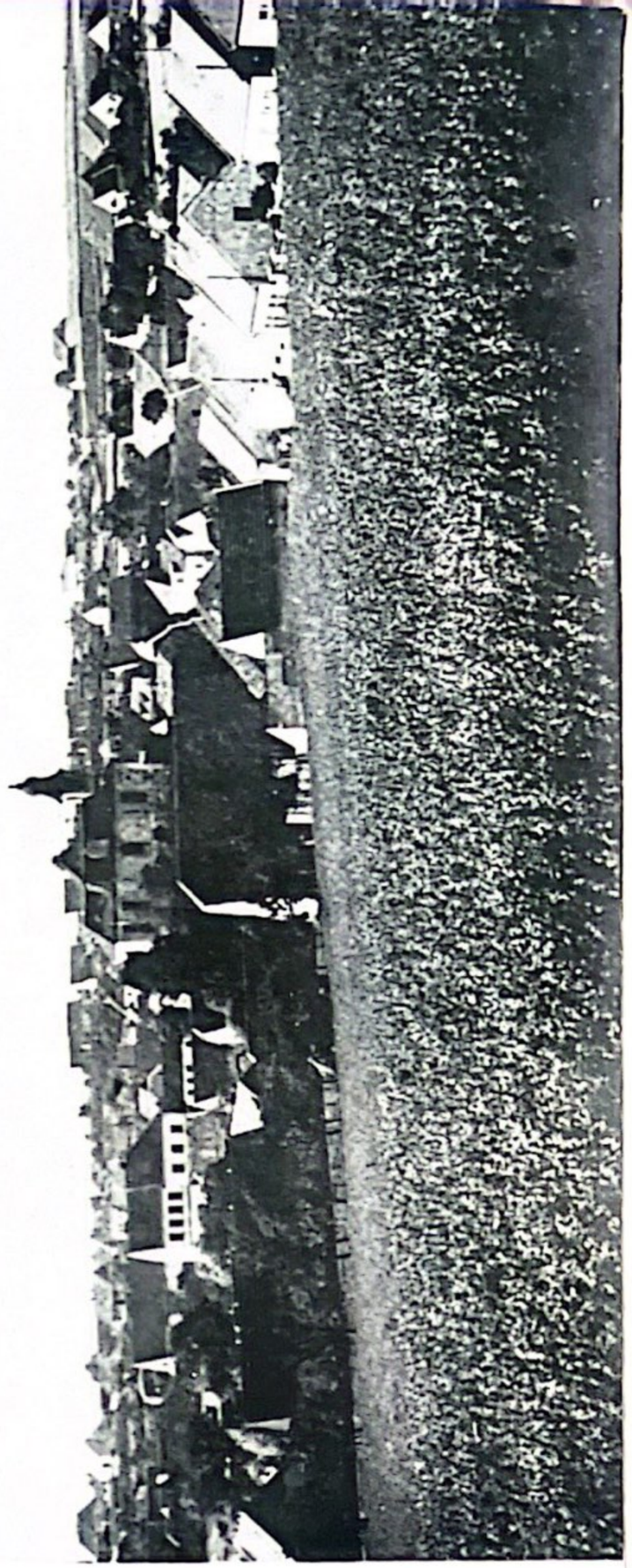
ILLUSTRATED SECTION

ORIGIN OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

Nos. 1 & 2	Archives of the Czechoslovak Military Geographical Institute.
No. 3	Reproduction of a picture post-card published prior to the destruction.
Nos. 4 to 10, 12 & 13	Snaps from a narrow film which the Germans made in documentation of the destruction of Lidice.
No. 11	Reproduction of the photos from the Czechoslovak Identity Cards of the men who were shot.
Nos. 14 & 16	Archive of the Association for the Restoration of Lidice.
No. 15	A photograph taken by the Czech Press Office.

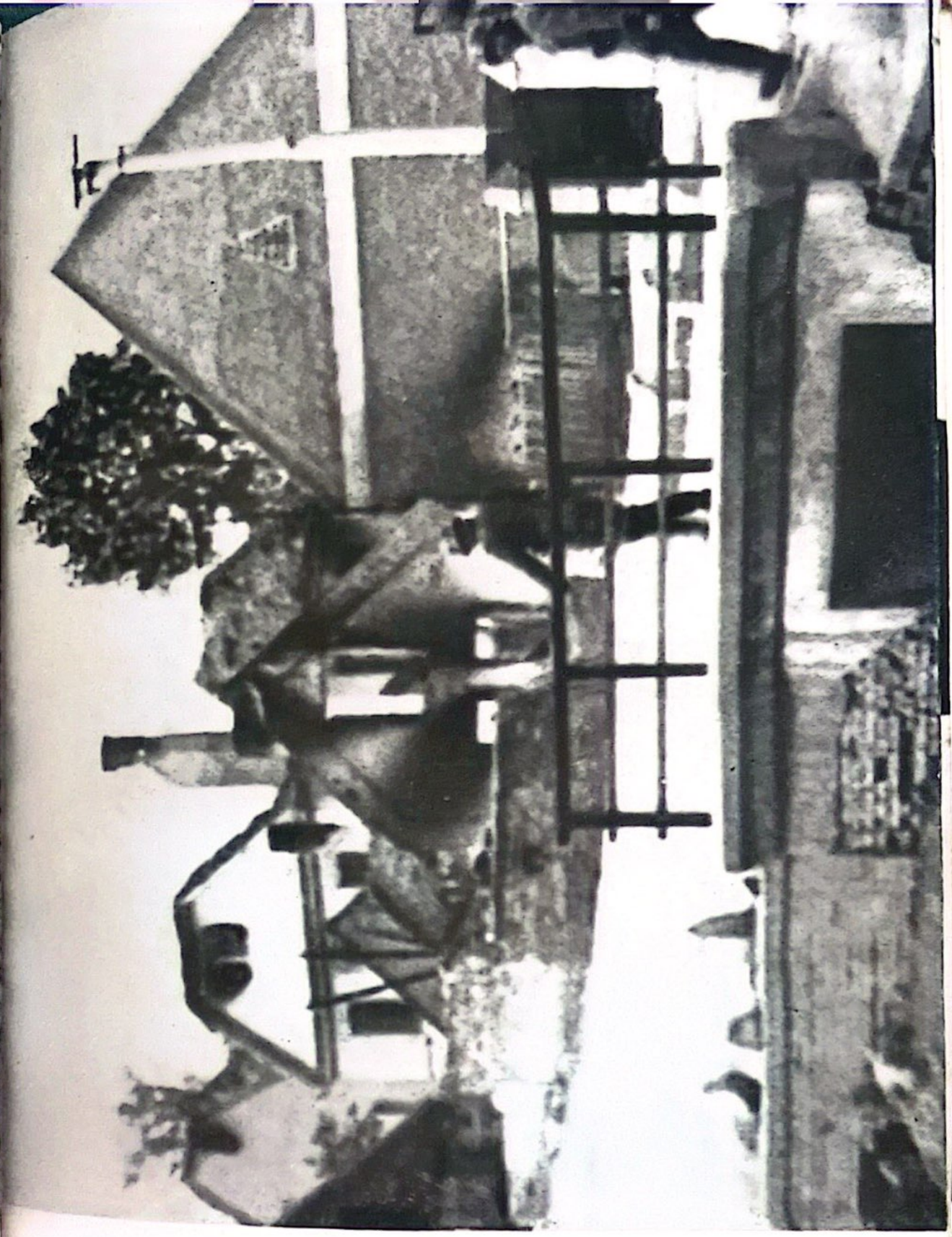
An air photo of Lidice before its annihilation (1938).

Air photo of Lidice in 1946.



The village of Lidice before destruction.

Burnt-out Lidice.



German soldiers passing through the burnt-out settlement.

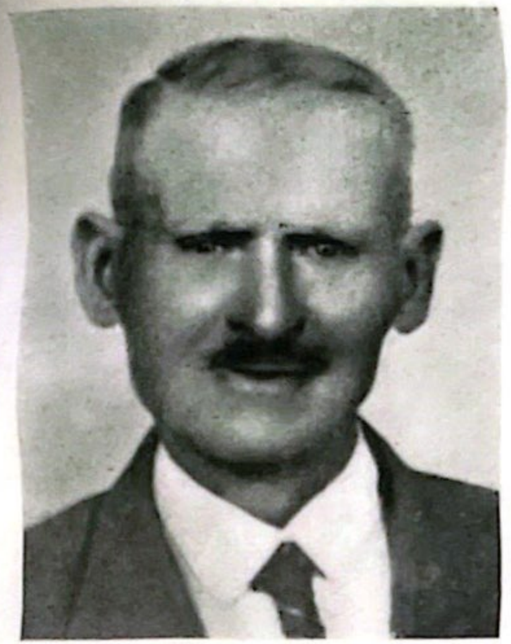
View of part of the destroyed habitations.

Burnt Lidice is blown up. — Explosions in the centre of the village.

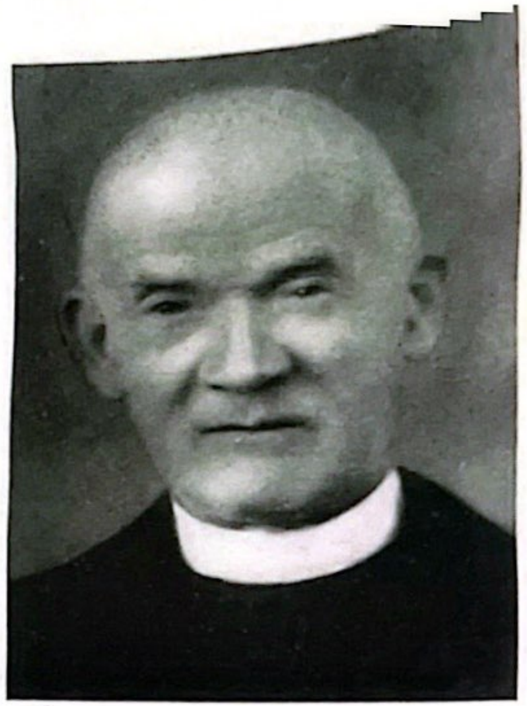
Yard of a ruined farm. — German soldier in the foreground.

A burnt-out cottage kitchen in Lidice.

Destruction in the cemetery of Lidice.



EMANUEL KOVAŘOVSKÝ



REV. JOSEF ŠTEMBERK

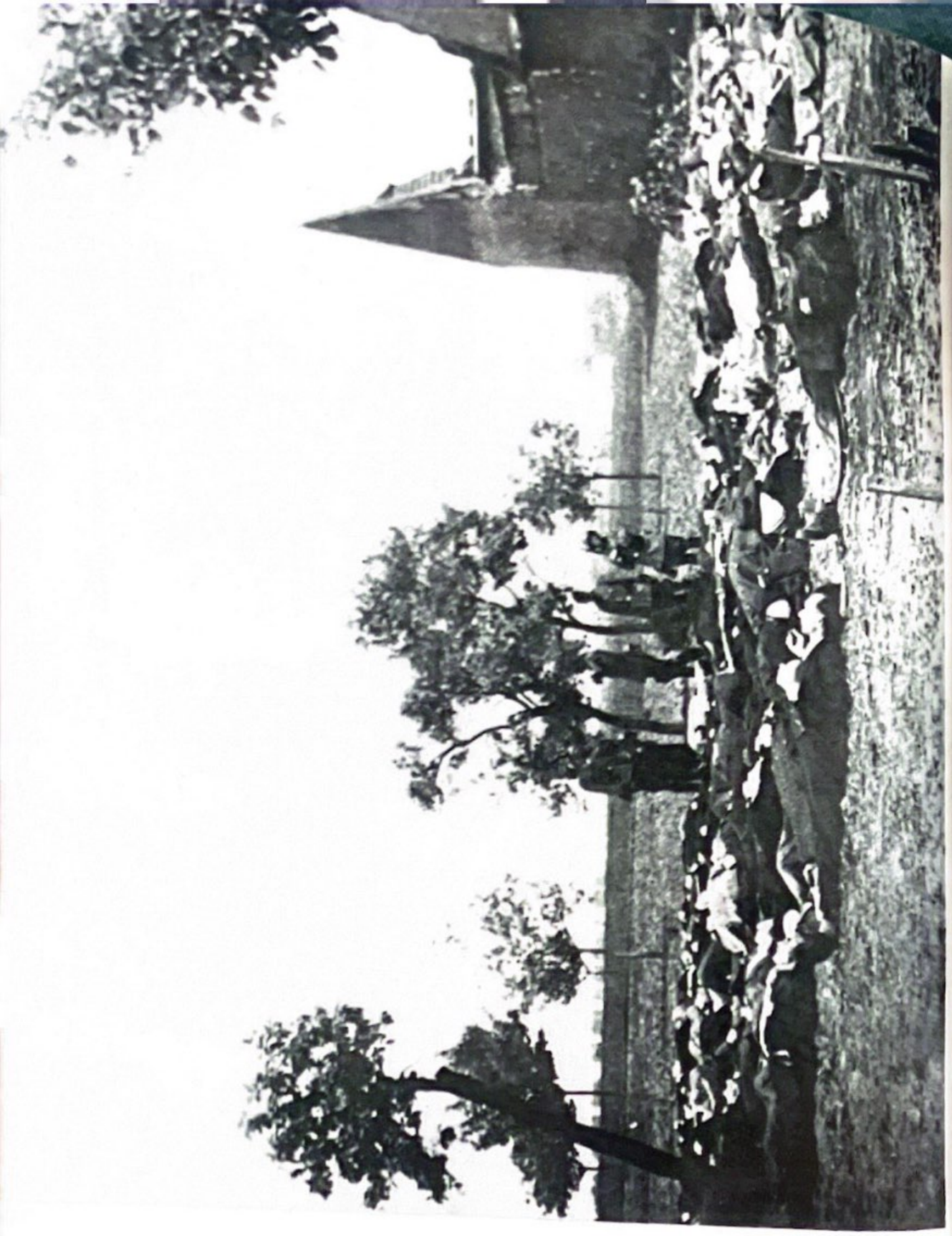
JOSEF HROŇÍK

The oldest man of Lidice, Emanuel Kovařovský, pensioner, born on 22nd. February 1858 in Buštěhrad,

the Parish Priest of Lidice, Rev. Josef Štemberk, born on 2nd. February 1869 in Pec,

and the youngest citizen of them, Josef Hroník, labourer, born on 16th. September 1927 in Lidice,

all three of whom were murdered with their fellow-citizens of Lidice on 10th. June 1942.

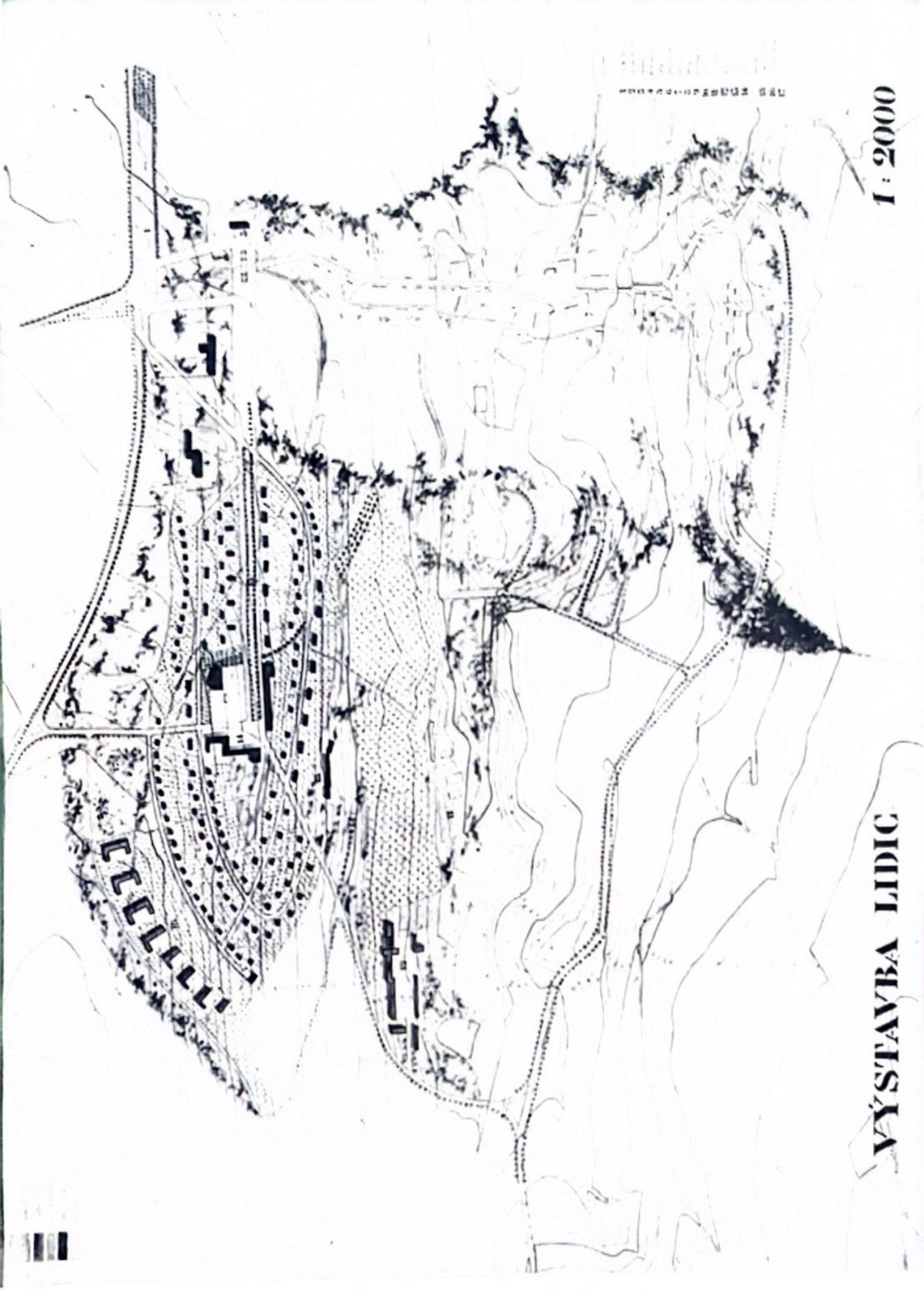


The men of Lidice. — German soldiers survey their deed.

Even the dog was shot.

Marie Doležalová, one of the small number of Lidice children to return, rejoins her mother, lying in hospital after her sufferings in a German concentration camp.

Baptism of the first citizen of Lidice, Jan Kučera, to be born in free Czechoslovakia. — His godparents are the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jan Masaryk, and the wife of Czechoslovakia's President, Mrs. Hana Beneš.



The final building and lay-out plan for the new parish of Lidice. Authors: Architects V. Hilský, eng. Z. Jirsák, F. Marek, R. Podzemný and A. Tenzer.

svoboda, Praha